MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Was it the intention of Government, when this Board was constituted, that it could function only in respect of new films produced in Travancore?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say what the intention of Government was. But the Board thinks that it is not necessary to re-examine the films which have already been certified in other parts of India. So they generally examine only new films.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): When the personnel of the Board was fixed, what was the standard of qualification adopted by Government for the membership of the Board?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Board was to consist of the Commissioner of Police, the Electrical Engineer, the Inspector of English Schools, a non-official member of the Trivandrum Municipal Council and a non-official member of the Legislature.

Reduction of Railway fare from Trivandrum to Punalur.

126. *MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the passenger fare between Trivandrum and Punalur on the South Indian Railway has been recently reduced; and

(*b*) if so, why?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For increasing passenger traffic.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*), may I know how long it is since the reduction has been introduced?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): About two months.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I know whether it is not due to competition?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, it is due to competition.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Is it to increase the passenger traffic in competition with the bus traffic?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether, by the reduction in the fare, there will be greater profit to the railway?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the member whether the policy of Government is to encourage or to discourage motor traffic?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): On a point of order, may I know whether this question arises?

PRESIDENT: No, it does not arise.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the member whether the reduction in the railway fare does not discourage motor traffic?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member whether, since the introduction of the reduced fares, there is any appreciable increase in the passenger traffic by the railway?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): By the reduction in the fare, the passenger traffic between Trivandrum and Quilon has almost doubled. Information regarding Quilon to Punalur is not available.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know whether Government considered the effect of discouraging motor traffic?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No.

Staff of the Travancore Section of the S. I. R.

127. ***MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total number of employees in different grades of service in the Travancore Section of the S. I. R. and the number of Travancoreans employed at present in each of those grades;

(*b*) whether the S. I. R. authorities are giving any preferential claim to applicants from Travancore; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, whether the question has been placed before the S. I. R. by the Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by calling for the information as the staff appointed to the Travancore Section is generally transferred to other Sections and *vice versa*.

(*b*) The Company have stated that Travancoreans receive full consideration along with others.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer to (*b*).

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): My question is whether any preferential treatment is meted out to Travancoreans. I wish to know whether any preference is given to the Travancoreans.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is that no special preference is shown to Travancoreans; but their applications are considered along with those of others.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Travancore Government have addressed the Railway Company suggesting that preference should be given to Travancoreans at least in the Travancore line?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As early as in 1922 the Government wrote to the Railway Company regarding the employment of Travancoreans in the South Indian Railway and they wrote back to say that the applications from Travancoreans would of course receive due consideration. That is all that has been done and that could be done.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Travancore member on the Railway Advisory Board has any voice in bringing this matter to the attention of the South Indian Railway?

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